

# HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone



SUNDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2024  
SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

To join us on Zoom, please use the link below:

<https://zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=YUpja05YTXFCN0N4MGRiSEVIRlI0Zz09>

Meeting ID: 882 096 2366  
Password: 033643

## SUNDAY 25 FEBRUARY

8am & 10am Holy Communion  
Celebrant & Preacher Revd Dr Wayne Brighton

## WEDNESDAY 28 FEBRUARY

12 Midday Communion Service and Lunch

## SUNDAY 3 MARCH

8am & 10am Holy Communion  
Celebrant & Preacher Revd Dr Wayne Brighton

## Coming soon:

Pizza Night: 1 March

Revd Bilkis Malek's first service:  
3 March

## Bank details for direct debit:

Bank: Commonwealth  
Branch: Jamison Centre ACT  
BSB 062 907  
Account No: 802588  
Name: Holy Covenant Anglican Church

## Everyone at the table?

Every time we take communion, we hear the invitation: *"This is the table of the Lord, and all are welcome here."* It's easy to take these words for granted.

But how welcoming is the church? How well are we managing to *"not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted"* (Ps 22:24)? Is the church setting its mind on divine things or are we distracted by human things (Mark 8:33)? What sort of barriers exist in our church, our community and our society that make church and thus Jesus difficult to access?

One of the barriers is 'empire thinking'. That's the type of thinking where we see our church and our way of doing Christianity as 'better' or 'great'. And as a result we miss the times when our church and our ways of being are at best missing ways to demonstrate resilient, restorative, pre-emptive love, and at worst actively discriminating against and disempowering the vulnerable.

There are people in our

communities, and possibly even in our own families desperate to be heard, but are we making ourselves available to listen?

It's not easy to be part of a community when you don't have the right clothes, when your disabilities make you look and sound different, when you don't have transport or don't speak English. It's hard to connect to other people when you don't know the rules of engagement.

How can we remove some of the barriers between people and the church? First, we need to recognise that those barriers exist. And that means talking to those who are currently ignored, harmed and oppressed by our empire thinking.

Today and every day, may we be uncomfortable rather than complacent on our journey of confession, repentance and growth. May we seek ways to listen up and listen in for the voice of Jesus, even if it means we have to change our thinking and being.

Megan Arthur

L had an extremely difficult upbringing - suffering neglect and abuse. This is reflected in certain aspects of her life in adulthood such as some of the parenting choices she has made in the past. L's children have been in care for months and were reunited with her this week.

During the process of getting her children back into her care, L regularly came to St John's Care (SJC) to receive help with food. She told us how losing custody of her children had helped her to improve as a person, and as a mother.

A fortnight ago she told me that her children were coming home permanently, and she needed our help. The first things we put together for her were school supplies including school bags, lunch boxes, drink bottles and stationery. I referred L to Roundabout who helped with toiletries packs for everyone, clothing, a pram, and car seats.

The family are starting a new chapter in their lives and SJC will be supporting them thanks to the help of donors, staff, volunteers, and the wider community. It has been incredible to watch L dedicate herself entirely to ensuring the best possible outcome for her children, and to see some positive and encouraging results.

We'd like to extend our sincerest thanks to our donors for your generous donations. This story reflects how your kindness and empathy impacts the lives of the most vulnerable in our community.

*Karen Medrano, SJC Case Manager*

**Items Required:** Children's toothbrushes, deodorant, sultanas for children's lunchboxes, school lunch snacks.

## Here I am

*Love divine, all love excelling, joy of heaven to earth  
come down. (Charles Wesley hymn )*

God lavishes his love on us. Go outside, you can see it - creation in all its glory. What joy to hear nothing else but the melodious song of the magpies, sitting on the branch of the gum tree, head held high and singing with such joy. Closer to the ground the bees are busy in the grevillea gathering their harvest for the day from the brilliant red blossoms, produce for our enjoyment. There is a mass of butterflies on the magenta blooms of the Buddleia bush and from among the twigs and flowers God says 'here I am.'

What love God has for us that he can create such as this for you and me They are all miraculous detail of God's creation - daily gifts. What will you thank God for today?

May God's blessing be upon us and remain with us always

*Anne Servant of the Lord.*



Miraculous Creation

## Welcome Revd Bilkis Malek (Bili)

Born in Prague in former Czechoslovakia, Bili escaped with her family to Australia via Austria during the Prague Spring as a child. She completed most of her schooling in Canberra, where she met her husband, Stuart, at High School.

Having worked as a doctor for many years, including fifteen years in the UK with her family, Bili has been involved in ministry both in the United Kingdom and Australia.

She has worked as a hospital Chaplain and a team leader, training others in Chaplaincy. She has led pioneer outreach services and participated in team healing ministries in an Anglican led Wholeness and Healing Centre. Coming from an Islamic background, Bili feels she has a unique perspective to offer concerning her bi-vocational experience.

Parents of three grown daughters, Bili and her husband live with their dog Oscar and cat Pip. Bili remains active in teaching at the ANU Medical School, where she has chaired a year 3 committee and led clinical skills at Queanbeyan Hospital. She retains admitting rights to Queanbeyan Hospital and has worked in the Emergency Department while caring for elderly patients in nursing homes.

Having completed her MA (Theo), Bili is transitioning into ordained ministry.

Bili will join Holy Covenant's ministry team on 3 March 2024 as a Deacon Assistant Minister. She is being ordained to the Diaconate on Saturday 24 February. Prior to her ordination she was a long-term member of Christ Church Queanbeyan and a lay leader at St Paul's Ginninderra.

## Making a home

Settling into a new home takes more than furniture, pots and pans. It takes family, friends and a whole network to help people feel safe and connected.

But what happens if you don't know anyone? Or that all the people who love you are stranded overseas in strange places? Or if you find the expectations around everything from sending your kids to school, driving or even shopping for your favourite foods difficult and weird?

Communities can play an important role helping refugees settle in Australia by providing simple forms of assistance that make a big difference.

In 2022 the Federal Government launched the Community Refugee Integration and Settlement Program as a way for community based groups to support 1,500 refugees start a new life in our strange place. Such programs have proven successful in the UK, US, NZ and Ireland,

As an Anglican Community, we can find better ways of working together so that some people can start a new life in our city.

Come along to learn more and discover how you and your parish could work with others to assist refugees is a practical way.

**When:** Saturday 16 March 2024, 10.30am

**Where:** Good Shepherd Anglican Church, 157 Carruthers St, Curtin,

For more information, contact Revd Wayne.





## Parish Council 2024

Thank you to these people who have volunteered their time to ensure that Holy Covenant is well administered.



**Secretary:** Tobias Neville



**Treasurer:**

Mark Cooper-Stanbury

**Councillors:** Timothy

Farrington, Peter Dent and Phil Trigge



**Rector's Nominee:** Anna Thorpe

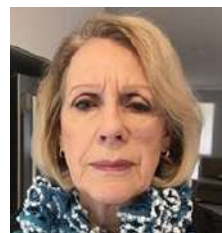


**People's Warden:** Allison Cooper-Stanbury



**Safe Ministries**

**Coordinator:** Anne McDowell



There are still some unfilled positions: Rector's Warden and the second People's Warden. Revd Wayne is actively recruiting for these positions, but you don't have to wait to be asked. If you have a passion for Holy Covenant, its people and its mission, please chat with Revd Wayne about the possibility of serving on Parish Council.

## Palm Sunday Rally

**When:** 1pm Sunday 24 March

**Where:** Garema Place

Watch Bishop Mark's video here: [https://youtu.be/X\\_JONfBGuJY?list=UU5H14doEOSbT6bJhW3Z\\_a3g](https://youtu.be/X_JONfBGuJY?list=UU5H14doEOSbT6bJhW3Z_a3g)

**JUSTICE FOR REFUGEES  
PERMANENT VISAS NOW**

## Lenten study update

The Lenten study is moving online from Wednesday 21 February. If you can't commit to every week, just come along when you can! You can access the study on Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=YUpja05YTXFCN0N4MGRiSFVIRII0Zz09>

## Casserole Bank

Many thanks to the people who have kept the Casserole Bank well stocked over the summer. We have had a sudden surge in requests for emergency food support, and more food is needed. Please include a list of ingredients!

## PRAYER POINTS

### IN THE WORLD

- ⇒ An end to tribal warfare and corruption in Papua New Guinea
- ⇒ Peace in Ukraine and Gaza, and an end to occupation

### IN AUSTRALIA

- ⇒ Housing and food security for all Australians
- ⇒ Improved sustainability in the clothing industry
- ⇒ An end to off-shore detention of refugees and asylum seekers

### IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

- ⇒ Diocese of The Northern Territory
- ⇒ Parishes of Cooma, Berridale and Snowy Mountains, and Southern Monaro
- ⇒ The Village Church (TVC) Exploratory Chaplaincy Unit
- ⇒ Premier of New South Wales and Leader of the Opposition, Chief Minister of the ACT and Leader of the Opposition, and their respective Governments and the Opposition parties.

### IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

- ⇒ For all members of our parish family including Sandra Ross; Richard and Maureen Scutter; Joh Sheehan; Paul and Heather Shelley; Carol Sherman, and Mandy Squair.
- ⇒ We uphold those in special need of prayer (often for long term needs) including Barry & Sandra Button; Bev Barnes; Glenys Wimmer; Bev Chambers; Bob and Kath Arthur and anyone known to us personally

## COMMEMORATIONS

- 25 Feb Clifford Jack Daniels (d. 2005)  
26 Feb Betty Joan Cooper (d. 2008)  
Jennifer Ellen Baines (d. 2019)  
Elizabeth Joyce Jennings (d. 2019)

## BIRTHDAYS

- 26 Feb Rick Tilden  
27 Feb Rika Kobayashi  
1 Mar Ursula Conan-Davies

## BIBLE READINGS

- Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16  
Psalm 22:24-32  
Romans 4:13-25  
Mark 8:31-38

## COLLECT

God of all times and places,  
in Jesus Christ, who was lifted up on the cross,  
you opened for us the path to eternal life:  
grant that we,  
being born again of water and the Spirit,  
may joyfully serve you in newness of life  
and faithfully walk in your holy ways;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the  
Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## MINISTRY TEAM CONTACTS

### Rector

The Reverend Dr Wayne Brighton,  
0407 408 333 rector@holycovenant.org.au

### Youth Coordinator

Tobias Neville  
0468 969 372 youth@holycovenant.org.au

### Wardens

Allison Cooper-Stanbury 0410 506 231

### Prayer Vine

Rosemary Kennemore  
6251 2009 kennemorerosemary@gmail.com

### Belonging and Caring

The Reverend Dr Wayne Brighton  
0407 408 333 rector@holycovenant.org.au

### Children & Families Worker

Lou Passmore  
0411 338 361 holycovenantkids@gmail.com

### Covenant Care Program Manager

Megan Arthur  
0487 945 615 nurse@holycovenant.org.au

### Covenant Care Chaplain

Venerable (EM) Anne Ranse OAM  
0406 379 599 anne.ranse@gmail.com

### Honorary Priests

The Revd Anne Dudzinski  
0413 994 739 annedudzinski@optusnet.com.au

The Revd Connie Gerrity  
0429 423 725 connie@gerrity.id.au

The Revd Lynda McMinn  
0403 769 991 ellemm99@gmail.com

### Resources Team

0419 255 002